

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BERLIN 01636 071632Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
-----006035 072146Z /64

R 071622Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6874
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 01636

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, GE
SUBJECT: DEATH OF WERNER LAMBERZ.

REF: BERLIN 18 (NOTAL)

1. GDR RADIO ANNOUNCED ON MORNING OF MARCH 7 THAT GDR
POLITBURO MEMBER WERNER LAMBERZ WAS KILLED IN A HELICOPTER
CRASH IN LIBYA. ALSO KILLED WERE CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBER
PAUL MARKOWSKI AND OTHER GDR AND LIBYAN OFFICIALS. NO
FURTHER DETAILS HAVE AS YET BEEN GIVEN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BERLIN 01636 071632Z

2. LAMBERZ WAS IN LIBYA AS SPECIAL ENVOY OF GDR PARTY
CHIEF HONECKER AND HAD MET WITH FOREIGN SECRETARY
TURAYKI.

3. LAMBERZ WAS A KEY FIGURE IN THE GDR. SOMETIMES DES-
CRIBED AS HONECKER'S HEIR APPARENT, LAMBERZ WAS A MEMBER
OF THE POLITBURO AND WAS CENTRAL COMMITTEE PARTY SECRE-

TARY FOR AGITATION AND PROPAGANDA IN WHICH CAPACITY HE CONTROLLED GDR RADIO, TELEVISION, PRESS AND PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES. LAMBERZ HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED IN THE GDR'S ACTIVIST FOREIGN POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA (REFTEL). HIS INTEREST IN AFRICA GOES BACK TO 1961 WHEN HE BECAME VICE PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN-AFRICAN SOCIETY.

4. LAMBERZ WAS FOR SOME TIME ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL MEN IN THE GDR. ALTHOUGH HIS METEORIC RISE TO POWER WAS ATTRIBUTED, IN PART, TO HIS BEING A PROTEGE OF HONECKER'S, THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT THERE HAD BEEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO AND THAT LAMBERZ LOST SOME OF HIS INFLUENCE. WHATEVER THE TRUTH TO THAT STORY, LAMBERZ SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IN GOOD GRACE IN RECENT MONTHS. HE TRAVELED ABROAD FREQUENTLY, WAS A MEMBER OF THE GDR DELEGATION TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARIES MEETING IN BUDAPEST AT THE END OF FEBRUARY, AND HAD BEEN APPEARING REGULARLY IN PICTURES WITH HONECKER.

5. WHILE LAMBERZ WAS CERTAINLY ACTIVE IN THE AREA OF GDR POLICY TOWARD AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST, WE WOULD NOT EXPECT TO SEE ANY CHANGES IN THIS POLICY AREA AS A RESULT OF HIS DEATH. MORE IMPORTANT WILL BE WHO SUCCEEDS LAMBERZ AS CHIEF OF PROPAGANDA AND AGITATION, A POWERFUL POSITION IN THE GDR. LAMBERZ WAS ALSO REPORTEDLY AN IMPORTANT IDEOLOGUE IN THE POLITBURO AND WOULD HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BERLIN 01636 071632Z

INFLUENTIAL IN A VARIETY OF POLITICAL AREAS. HIS DEATH WILL PROBABLY HAVE SOME IMPACT ON GDR POLICY MAKING, ALTHOUGH PROBABLY NOT A DRAMATIC ONE. WHETHER HIS DEATH MEANS THE REMOVAL OF AN ALLY OR AN ADVERSARY FOR HONECKER WE CANNOT SAY, BUT IT DOES REMOVE ONE OF THE MORE TALENTED AND YOUNGER MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP.

6. PAUL MARKOWSKI, ALSO KILLED IN THE HELICOPTER CRASH, WAS HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECTION OF THE SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ONE OF HONECKER'S CLOSEST ADVISORS ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. BOLEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BERLIN01636
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780103-0359
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803100/aaaadgin.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 370281b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BERLIN 18
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3100273
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF WERNER LAMBERZ.
TAGS: PGOV, GC, (LAMBERZ, WERNER)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/370281b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014